

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01     PRETOR 03540 241444Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 MCT-01 /080 W  
-----039602 241446Z /43

O 241150Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1470

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3540

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PDEV, PFOR, WA, SF

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: VAN HEERDEN COMMENTS ON AG AND BOMBING INCIDENT

1. FOREIGN MINISTER BOTH'S AIDE NEIL VAN HEERDEN TOLD  
COUNSELOR JUNE 23 THAT CONTACT GROUP SHOULD  
DISREGARD THE AG'S JUNE 21 PUBLIC STATEMENT THAT AN  
ELECTION DATE WOULD BE REVEALED SOON (PRETORIA 3470). HE  
SAID THE AG HAD NOT BE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE THIS STATEMENT  
AND THAT HE WOULD NOT REPEAT IT. HE IMPLIED THAT STEYN  
WAS BEGINNING TO HARBOR AN OVERBLOWN IMAGE OF HIS ROLE  
AS "KING OF SOUTH WEST." HE INDICATED THAT THE GOVERN-  
MENT HAD ADMONISHED THE AG ABOUT HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS.

2. VAN HEERDEN SAID THAT AS SOON AS THEY HAD THE  
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DETAILS OF THE INVESTIGATION OF THE RECENT  
BOMBING OF THE WINDHOEK-WALVIS BAY RAILROAD (PRETORIA  
3501), THE SAG WOULD BE APPROACHING THE CONTACT GROUP ON  
THE SUBJECT. ACCORDING TO VAN HEERDEN, THE TYPE OF  
EXPLOSIVE USED WAS SIMILAR TO THAT PROVIDED BY THE  
SOVIETS. VAN HEERDEN ASSERTED THAT THIS WAS A SERIOUS  
INCIDENT WHICH COULD HAVE HAD MAJOR REVERBERATIONS IF

SOME OF THE CHILDREN, BOTH BLACK AND WHITE, TRAVELING  
ON THE TRAIN, HAD BEEN INJURED OR KILLED.  
EDMONDSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BOMBING  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978PRETOR03540  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780263-1060  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** PRETORIA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2219056  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NAMIBIA: VAN HEERDEN COMMENTS ON AG AND BOMBING INCIDENT  
**TAGS:** PDEV, PFOR, WA, SF  
**To:** STATE USUN NEW YORK  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/04391782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014